Credit from banks for SSIs

338. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems experienced by small sector in getting credit from bank; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to reduce their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the problems faced by Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector in getting credit, various policy initiatives have been taken by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India to reduce their problems. The measures include enhancement of working capital loan computed on the basis of minimum of 20% of annual projected turnover from Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 5 crores, enhancement in composite loan limit from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh, raising of project cost limit under National Equity Fund Scheme (NEF) from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs, providing collateral free loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs to the SSI units having good track record and adoption by Public Sector Banks an interest rate band of 2% above and below of their respective Prime Lending Rate (PLR) for SSI units. The lower ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs loan to the eligible for guarantee cover under the Credit Guarantee Scheme has been removed.

Mission to Moon

† 339. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer the reply to Unstarred Question 313 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2003 and to state:

(a) whether the National Task Team has submitted its report containing the scientific purposes, cost and date of launch etc. of Unmanned Aeria Vehicle under the Programme, "Mission to the Moon";

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and period of time likely to be involved therein and by when success is likely to be achieved; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.